

# Musselshell Watershed Coalition

... benefiting water users and the river

by practicing basin-wide cooperative management

EXHIBIT 11

DATE Jan 16, 2013

HB 6

January 14, 2013

- Partners

Deadman's Basin Water  
Users Association

Delphia-Melstone Canal  
Water Users Association

Garfield County  
Conservation District

Lower Musselshell  
Conservation District

Mosby-Musselshell  
Watershed Group

Petroleum County  
Conservation District

Upper Musselshell  
Conservation District

Upper Musselshell Water  
Users Association

- Agencies

Montana Dept. of  
Environmental Quality

Montana Dept. of  
Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Montana Dept. of  
Natural Resources  
& Conservation

Natural Resources  
Conservation Service

Subject: Petroleum Conservation District Horse Creek Coulee  
Storage Reservoir Project

To Whom It May Concern:

The Musselshell Watershed Coalition (MWC), representing four Water Users Associations and four Conservation Districts operating along the entire main stem of the Musselshell River, strongly supports Petroleum Conservation District's (PCD) RRGL application to complete pre-development assessment for the proposed Horse Creek Coulee Storage Project.

PCD's partner in this project, the Mosby Musselshell Watershed Group, having overcome the challenging obstacle of successfully securing a water right for the storage project, needs additional assistance to complete the preliminary project assessment work.

The Horse Coulee Storage Project, when built, will provide much needed off-stream storage to supplement late season in-stream flows in the lower Musselshell River.

Thank you for consideration of our support.

Respectfully,



Bill Milton  
MWC Facilitator

Bill Milton, Facilitator  
P.O. Box 629  
Roundup, MT 59072  
406-323-1771  
Bill\_Milton@hotmail.com

Donna Pedrazzi, District Administrator  
Lower Musselshell Conservation District  
109 Railroad Ave. East  
Roundup, MT 59072  
406-323-2103  
Donna.Pedrazzi@mt.nacdnet.net

Leon B. Hammond  
UMWUA Project Manager  
PO Box 643  
Harlowton, MT 59036  
(406) 220-2093  
[rhammond@itstriangle.com](mailto:rhammond@itstriangle.com)

January 14, 2013

To whom it may concern:

The Upper Musselshell Water User's Association (UMWUA) supports the Renewable Resource Grant application being submitted by the Mosby Musselshell Watershed Group (MMWG) for design and geotechnical investigation of their proposed off-stream storage project.

MMWG's off-stream water storage project in Horse Creek coulee would benefit not only their water users and the entire watershed. Their ability to store water that cannot be captured by the other three reservoirs and then release it during times of peak demand would allow the shareholders the use of their resource while maintaining healthier flows in the Musselshell River. The additional flows from the storage facility could also help improve water quality in the lower end of the river.

Your favorable consideration of this request would be appreciated.

Sincerely,



Leon B. Hammond  
Project Manager





---

## Lower Musselshell Conservation District

109 Railway East  
Roundup, Montana 59072

January 14, 2013

Subject: Horse Creek Coulee Storage Reservoir Project

Applicant: Petroleum County Conservation District

To whom it may concern:

When plans were made to build the Deadman's Basin water storage project in the 1930's, discussion occurred about the need for off stream water storage in the lower reach of the Musselshell. It was determined at that time that work would proceed on the Deadman's Basin project, and at a future date, plans would be made to provide the storage project on the lower reach of the Musselshell.

A water right has been obtained to fill the storage reservoir, and a location has been decided on. Funds are needed to conduct a geotechnical investigation and preliminary design of a dam and reservoir. Water would be delivered to the reservoir via the Delphia-Melstone Canal during high river flows, and distributed to downstream irrigators during low river flows.

Some of the oldest water rights belong to producers that irrigate from the lower stretch of the river, and many times the water does not get to them. Allowing off stream storage that could be used during low flows would give them the water they need to keep their crops growing. The water released during low flows would also help with fish and wildlife in the area.

Lower Musselshell Conservation District strongly supports the Horse Creek Coulee Storage Reservoir Project, and would appreciate it if you reconsider funding their request for geotechnical research and preliminary design.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,  
  
Shirley Parrot, Supervisor and Vice Chairman

Lower Musselshell Conservation District



TERI HICE, PROJECT MANAGER  
DEADMAN'S BASIN WATER USERS' ASSOCIATION

125 Autumn Road  
Roundup, MT 59072  
Phone (406) 323-3533  
Fax (406) 323-3533  
kthice@midrivers.com

---

January 13, 2013

RE: Horse Creek Coulee Water Storage Project

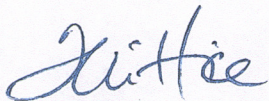
To Whom It May Concern:

The Deadman's Basin Water Users' Association fully supports the Petroleum County Conservation District project for the preliminary design and geotechnical investigation for the future development of an off-stream storage site in Horse Creek coulee by the Mosby Musselshell Watershed Group.

Additional off-stream water storage capabilities on the Musselshell River would create even better management of this valuable resource. The ability to capture high river flows during periods of low demand and return them to the system during periods of low flows and higher demand would make a dramatic improvement on the lower Musselshell River.

The Deadman's Basin Water Users' Association would benefit from the additional downstream storage in many ways including increased in-stream flows for contract water carriage, the ability to capture and store contract water released but unused, and an opportunity to expand and enhance the existing management and cooperation among the partners of the Musselshell Watershed Coalition.

Sincerely,



*Teri Hice, Project Manager*



**Delphia Melstone Canal Water Users Association**

**Melstone, Montana**

**Lynn Rettig – Manager**

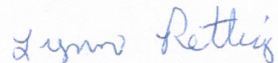
**January 14, 2013**

**To Whom It May Concern:**

This letter is in regard to the Petroleum Conservation District's application to the DNRC for a \$100,000 RRGL grant. The project, Horse Coulee Storage Project, concerns the Mosby Musselshell Watershed Group's desire to build an off stream storage reservoir. This grant would help in the development of the next essential phase of this process which is a more detailed assessment of the proposed reservoir site. Delphia Melstone Canal Water Users Association supports this project and in fact will be a part in it as the proposed reservoir site is on the South Canal of DMCWUA and would be filled by the South Canal. DMCWUA would benefit from this project in two ways, (1) a small amount of irrigation water would be available for DMCWUA (2) it would be a management tool to help better manage water on the South Canal.

This is an essential step for this project to go forward and we ask your positive consideration for this grant.

Lynn Rettig



Delphia Melstone Canal Water Users Association